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Spring Suggestions

FROM THE

NEW JERSEY BOTANICAL
INVESTIGATIONS

... Union County
Nurseries

HIRAM T. JONES

ELIZABETH
NEW JERSEY

1899

times, so as to lift easily with a thick ball of earth and fibrous roots, insuring their safety in final transplanting. The trunks are well-branched and symmetrical, and will soon develop into fine ornaments. Specimens and extra-sized stock of nearly all choice or popular trees and shrubs can be furnished if needed.

All to whom these Spring Suggestions are offered, be their grounds large or small, will naturally consider first the selection of

Ornamental Shade Trees.

From so many handsome families and forms it is difficult always to hit upon just the very finest trees that are also just the ones best adapted to the positions they are destined to fill. My suggestions, then, will cover mainly those trees which are beautiful in any situation and likely to thrive anywhere.

The Beeches, especially the FERN-LEAVED and PURPLE, are exceptionally fine for specimens, avenues or contrastive grouping. The former is a beautiful and rare tree of rounded form and medium size. The leaves are deeply and delicately cut, and the young shoots droop like tendrils, giving the tree a singular grace and airiness. Our stock sells at 75 cts. to \$1.50, according to size.

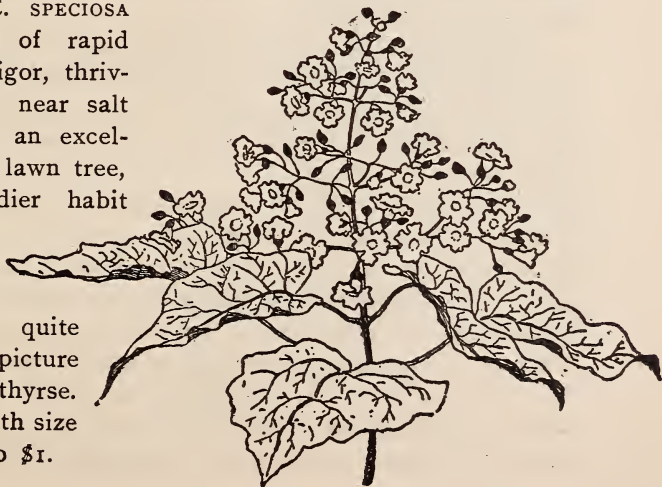
THE PURPLE BEECH is unapproached for sparkling masses of color. It is a fine shade tree, grows rapidly when well established, is hardy, long-lived, and little molested by insects. Trees from 6 to 12 feet high are cheap at \$1 to \$5.

All winter the silvery trunks of **The Birches**, rising like white columns from the snow, have kept themselves in our minds for spring planting as trees beautiful all the year. Fine as their summer leafage is, the trees are just as beautiful without it when, in winter, all their spirited grace of outline

is sketched in gleaming gray and silver against dark masses of evergreen. For the sake of this contrast, Birches are usually planted in front of evergreens.

There are some weeping forms among the Birches that are especially valuable for breaking the monotony of stiffer, more formal foliage masses. Unquestionably the finest of all weeping or pendulous trees is the CUT-LEAVED WEEPING BIRCH. The main trunk is straight as a dart, but the side branches are so slender as to droop most picturesquely, bending their silvery spray of twigs and delicately cut leaves with inimitable grace on every side. We have nice trees of this Birch in most desirable sizes, all of which have been transplanted, at from 75 cts. to \$1.

The Catalpa's showy flowers and broad masses of large leaves are as useful for formal and tropical effects as the Birches are for airy etchings. C. BUNGEI is a curious dwarf with dome-shaped head, formed by leaves laid with great precision. Grafted upon tall stems it is now frequently used in terrace decoration instead of tender and expensive bay trees. Our grafted standards are selling at from \$1 to \$2 apiece. C. SPECIOSA is a marvel of rapid growth and vigor, thriving well even near salt water. It is an excellent street or lawn tree, of finer, hardier habit than the common Catalpa, and begins to bloom when quite young. Our picture shows a flower-thyrse. Prices vary with size from 50 cts. to \$1.



A choice bit of bric-a-brac for any lawn is the **Chionanthus**, or **White Fringe Tree**. Its large, lustrous leaves and fragrant cloud of white silken fringe show to great advantage against some burly evergreen, and do not take up much room.

All the **Dogwoods**, even our favorite American **CORNUS FLORIDA**, have that sketchy picturesqueness, suggesting Japan, a tincture of which is considered so essential in all art nowadays. Ellwanger rates *C. florida* next to the magnolias as a spring-flowering tree, and next to the scarlet oak in brilliant autumn foliage. THE RED-FLOWERING DOGWOOD, *C. florida* var. *rubra*, differs from the white-flowering only in the color of its flowers, and blooms at an even earlier age.

THE WEEPING DOGWOOD, *C. f. pendula*, is a quaint little tree that droops its side branches symmetrically from an upright central shoot. It is like the other two in general characteristics. The broad, horizontal flower-masses of the Dogwoods are quite durable, and nothing could be finer for planting in quantity with shrubs for screens, or under and among larger trees. We offer good-sized trees of the three species at from \$1 to \$3; smaller sizes of *C. florida* at 25 cts. to 50 cts.

Perhaps the richest-flowering specimen lawn tree of all, barring the magnolias, is the **Red-flowering Horse Chestnut**, *Æsculus rubicunda*. Its rounded cone of deep green leaves is thickly spangled with large, erect flower-spikes, of an unusually rich, attractive red. It is smaller in every way than the White-flowering Horse Chestnut, but beautiful for contrasting with it. Our prices for good trees are \$1 to \$3.

An elegant tree in which the planter will always take pride is the **Liquidambar**, **Sweet Gum**, or **Bilsted**. Its rough, straight stem, cork-ridged twigs, and curious seed-balls give it a picturesque appearance, and its glossy, star-shaped leaves color to sparkling tints of red and purple in autumn. It makes a good street or avenue tree, or is a pretty ornament for any grounds. Trees 6 to 10 feet, 50 cts. to \$1.50.

For general shade and ornamental purposes **The Maples** have for years been more largely planted than any other trees. For street and seashore planting we especially recommend the **NORWAY MAPLE**. It thrives well in dry, poor soil, forms a rounded head of strong branches not likely to be split by storms, and soon casts a dense shade. 50 cts. to \$3.

A statelier species that in time reaches grand proportions is the **SUGAR, or ROCK MAPLE**. It has showy scarlet flowers in spring, brilliant red and orange-colored leaves in fall, and probably no other tree is so well adapted for general planting in all sorts of rural soils and situations. We can supply trees from 8 to 20 feet high at from 50 cts. to \$5.

The demand for the **JAPANESE MAPLES** usually far exceeds the supply. Since their introduction into this country they have grown steadily in public favor, until now nothing is considered so elegant and effective for single specimens in small or town yards, for grouping in larger spaces, or for bordering groups of other trees and shrubs. They grow slowly into dwarf, bushy trees of singular grace and beauty, and their finely cut leaves are frequently dashed with vivid or delicate color tints. We can supply beautiful specimens of the best sorts of these trees at from \$2 to \$2.50.



JAPAN MAPLE.

Some species of the royal **Magnolia** family is essential in even small grounds or gardens. We suggest as a plant of highest ornamental value, for grounds either large or small, that exquisite dwarf species, **MAGNOLIA STELLATA**, HALL'S JAPAN **MAGNOLIA**. It forms a dense, low-branched, broad-spreading bush, with small, oval, shining leaves and a marvelous profusion of fragrant, semi-double, purest white flowers, opening earlier than those of any other variety. We can supply fine little bushes for \$1.50.

It is also sometimes necessary to choose most discriminatingly among **The Oaks**, all as distinguished for grandeur of form as the magnolias are for beauty of flower. One of the most vigorous and rapid-growing, by many considered the best of all, is the **PIN OAK**. It differs from other Oaks in form, being sharply ovate, with flower branches reaching the ground at a uniform angle, which distinguishes the tree as far as it can be seen. The leafage is dense, finely divided, of a beautiful shining green that colors brilliantly in autumn. For avenue and general planting unsurpassed. Our 6 to 12-foot trees are selling at 75 cts. to \$1.

Great interest and richness of effect are given to parks and gardens by mingling bright-leaved trees and shrubs with more ordinary foliage. Finest of all these are the **Purple Beech**, already noted, and the **PURPLE-LEAVED PLUM**, *Prunus Pissardii*. This rich-leaved little Plum differs from other purple trees in being brightest at the end of the season. As it is cheap and quick-growing, it may be used in quantity for contrast in groups of shrubs and trees, or for an ornamental hedge. The white single flowers which cover it in spring are shown in outline on the first page. 50 cts. to \$1.

The Salisburia, **GINGKO**, or **MAIDEN-HAIR-FERN TREE**, is another tree which nurserymen have never yet been able to propagate rapidly enough to meet the demand. Visitors who have tarried long in Washington, where there are magnificent avenues and specimens of **Gingko**, clamor most

eagerly for it. Its trunk is a tapering shaft, with long, straight branches set at an upright angle, clothed with exquisite leaves like the pinnules of the Maiden-hair Fern. The tree seems proof against city air, dust, and the usual insect enemies, and has a most picturesque sky-line. Good specimens can be supplied at \$1 to \$2.50 each.

Quite as unique among the larger flowering trees, and destined some day to be as popular, is the high, handsome **Tulip Tree**, *Liriodendron tulipifera*. Its erect, smooth gray bole grows rapidly to great height, giving its branches a wide, slow sweep downward and clothing them thickly with masses of large, glossy, fiddle-shaped leaves. Large, too, and worth their grand setting, are the curious, tulip-like flowers of tawny orange and yellow. 75 cts. to \$1.50.

For beauty and shelter in winter and for summer backgrounds, the setting of a few

Exceptionally Fine Evergreens

Is necessary in even restricted areas. I can supply customers with beautiful **Dwarf Evergreens in full variety** at moderate prices. One of the prettiest of these is the **Dwarf Box**, so much used for edgings. It seems to thrive well anywhere and forms dense, round masses of narrow glossy leaves. Not a conifer, but a most charming little shrub. Sells at \$5 per 100, 35 cts. per yard.

Among Evergreens used for hedging the **American Arborvitæ** and **Norway Spruce** are most valuable. They retain their lower branches well, grow vigorously, and bear pruning to any necessary extent. The first is used for smaller screens, hedges and specimens; the second, which forms grand specimens of great size when allowed to develop fully, is greatly valued for large hedges, screens, and shelter belts. Specimens of these two Evergreens are 50 cts. to \$1.50 each;

hedge plants \$10 to \$30 per 100, according to size. We can supply all sizes in large quantities at low prices.

And while we are speaking of Spruces, let me remind my customers how much more beautiful their grounds would be with more **Colorado Blue Spruces** planted in them. Their stiff, pointed foliage flashes and shimmers all year with silvery blue or gray, and in time forms dense pyramids of rare beauty. Our specimens have been selected, grafted and grown with regard to richest color effects, and the price ranges from \$2 to \$5, according to size and color.

The quickest-growing Pine, and really the best and handsomest for general purposes, is **The White Pine**, *Pinus Strobus*. It is of dense growth even when young, and if not crowded will retain its lower branches for many years. Its "needles" are a lovely light silvery green and very soft to the touch. The finest Evergreen of all for backgrounds or wind-breaks on large lawns. We can supply this Pine in all sizes and prices from 50 cts. to \$1.

Evergreens are more appreciated now than formerly, and, leaving their selection, therefore, to the unquestioned good taste of my customers, I pass on to the next element in landscape art,

The Selection of Shrubbery.

Azaleas and Rhododendrons will at once suggest themselves to all as the grandest forms of this class. Those who lament their inability to succeed with the latter may well turn their attention to the former, especially the two fine species, **AZALEA AMÆNA** and **A. MOLLIS**. *A. Amœna* is frequently classed as a rhododendron on account of its beautiful shining leaves, which are retained all winter, changing then to reddish purple. In early summer, when covered with a mass of large, bright solferino flowers, nothing could be more brilliant. It

likes a half-shady, sheltered position, and is admirably adapted for small grounds. 50 cts. to \$1.50.

AZALEA MOLLIS has a brilliancy unequaled by any other hardy shrub. Self-colors, ranging through beautiful shades of yellow and orange-red, prevail in this class, and the large, rhododendron-like flower-clusters are all the more conspicuous because they appear before the leaves. These two Azaleas are easy to grow and perfectly hardy when well established. 50 cts. to \$2.

The less pretentious but hardy and valuable *Althæas*, or ROSES OF SHARON, must be planted, too, to fill the flowerless gap in late summer when other shrubs begin to fail. The most attractive varieties we can supply at 25 to 50 cts. each.

Jewel-like in beauty and most obliging in general character is that unique little shrub, *Berberis Thunbergii*, so useful and equally beautiful for a dozen or more different needs in landscape gardening, such as bordering groups of larger shrubs, forming low hedges, planting around house foundations, etc. In late autumn, when most other shrubs are bare, the small, oval leaves of this broad, picturesque little bush color up to vivid crimson, and until midwinter it is bright with scarlet berries. Its ropes of fragrant yellow flowers appear in spring. 25 to 50 cts.; hedge plants, \$5 per 100.

THE PURPLE-LEAVED BARBERRY is richer and more lasting in color than any other purple-leaved shrub we can suggest. Rich contrasting effects may be wrought out with it when planted in quantities, which the low price of 25 cts. per plant allows.

For bloom in late summer and autumn, when great white hydrangea heads seem to be the only other flowers along the shrubbery, that neat, compact new shrub, *The Caryopteris*, is considered very fine. Its fragrant blue flower-clusters keep crowding up plentifully from the axils of the leaves until nipped by hard frosts. If cut back to the ground by intense cold it springs up with renewed vigor the next year.

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Although popularly called BLUE SPIRÆA, it is not related to that genus. 50 cts.

In hottest midsummer, too, when other flowers are flagging and fading, the lovely little **Clethra** begins to swing its slender white censers of bloom. For nearly two months a good mass of it will fill the whole garden with spicy fragrance and the merry hum of honey-feasting bees, for whose benefit alone it is frequently planted. On large estates it is much favored for massing naturally along drives and in the edges of woodlands. 25 cts. each, \$10 per 100.

Among the glories of early summer we count always the blossoming of **Deutzias in variety**. To the four cardinal points of a good shrub,—vigor, hardiness, beauty and lavish bloom,—they add remarkable grace and adaptability to all soils. The taller forms make elegant specimens; smaller ones, like *D. gracilis*, are beautiful for bordering groups, or setting near the house where large shrubs are inadmissible. This little beauty is also much in demand for Easter forcing. We offer a fine assortment of Deutzias at 25 to 50 cts., according to variety.

Elæagnus edulis, SILVER THORN, or OLEASTER, as it is variously called, makes sure of its hold upon humanity by appealing both to the eye and the palate. It forms a pretty little bush, attractive at all seasons of the year; first, because of its reddish brown bark and handsome, silver-lined leaves, to which it adds in succession bright yellow flowers and an abundant crop of bright-colored fruit, about as large as currants and quite as palatable. We sell nice bushes, suitable either for the fruit or the flower garden, for 50 cts. to \$1.

For enlivening plain green shrubberies, or forming royal contrasts with purple-leaved shrubs suggested elsewhere, there is nothing finer than the large, lively golden yellow foliage of the **Golden Elder**, *Sambucus nigra aurea*. Ornamental in flower, fruit and leaf, it also grows fast in all soils, remaining richest and most constant in dry ones. 25 to 50 cts.

UNION COUNTY NURSERIES

The most popular hardy shrub at the present time is **Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora**, so showy and bloom-enduring in an almost flowerless time, so vigorous and entirely hardy in the most exposed situations. For variety we would suggest, also, the wider planting of the less showy parent species, *H. PANICULATA*, which blooms earlier, in large, erect panicles, composed chiefly of small, perfect flowers, with but few of the showy, sterile ones. 25 cts. to \$1.

The loved, lovely old **Lilacs!** How forlorn in spring seem the few stray gardens without them! How fertile the fine old family is in breaking up into rich new types, each one finer than the last! I offer a choice assortment at from 25 cts. to \$1.50.

In May, like a late snow-storm, **The Snowballs** shake out their great flakes of flowers. Much finer than any of the older sorts in habit, handsomer foliage, and whiter, more abundant flowers, is the new JAPAN SNOWBALL, *Viburnum plicatum*. Masses of Snowballs give for spring the same showy effects produced in fall by hydrangeas. 50 to 75 cts.

Lower-growing and valuable for carrying out in variety the same effects in that riotous extravagance of bloom that makes a spring paradise of a well-planted shrubbery are **The Spiræas**. *S. THUNBERGII*, *S. PRUNIFOLIA FL. PL.*, and *S. OPULIFOLIA AUREA* are beautiful all the season: In spring because of their graceful white drifts of bloom and later for their bright leaf-tints.

VAN HOUTTE'S SPIREA, by many landscape gardeners, is given first place in the whole category of shrubs. Its dense, drifting flower-wreaths are singularly graceful, and its autumn foliage is bright. Besides its ordinary uses as specimens and for massing, it makes an elegant low ornamental hedge. The low price of all these Spireas (25 cts. retail, lower in quantity) makes them available for planting in great numbers.

Of quite a different character from these is that showy, low-spreading shrub, SPIRÆA ANTHONY WATERER. New and

rare as yet, it is also the brightest-flowered and longest-blooming of any. From June until October this little bush produces large, dense, flat clusters of bright crimson flowers so lavishly as to almost hide the leaves.

A few choice bright-fruited shrubs give much interest to the shrubbery in autumn and winter, when flowers and leaves are past. **The Red and White Waxberries**, **SNOWBERRIES**, or **CORAL BERRIES** (*Symphoricarpos*) contrast finely and are odd and pretty in effect. Their slender branches droop quite to the earth with their heavy clusters of large fruits. 25 cts. each.

In June, after the lilacs and other showy shrubs are gone, flower **The Weigelas**, or **DIERVILLAS**, their clusters of large, trumpet-shaped flowers shining out brightly, in all shades from white to red, from among rich leafage. They are especially pretty in borders and groups of trees, the variegated-leaved sorts being admirable for margins. The most beautiful variety of all is **EVA RATHKE**, a charming new *Weigela*, with crimson flowers in a clear, distinct shade.

The delights of any garden may be increased ten-fold by making

COLLECTIONS OF THE MANY VARIETIES

In a fine race of Shrubs or Perennial Plants. Say, for instance, that the owner of some fine estate wishes to grow a collection of Lilacs. There are 80 or more choice and distinct varieties, varying greatly in season of bloom, as well as in color, form and size of flowers. Collections of Japanese Maples, of Spireas, Lilies, Iris, Pæonies, etc., are almost equally interesting.

THE ROSE GARDEN

May be made a full and rich example of such collecting. The Climbing and Trailing Roses, including the **Ramblers**, and **Wichuraiana Hybrids**, the **Hybrid Perpetuals**, the **Teas**,

Mosses, etc., all form groups each of which contains many choice forms. We have good stocks of all the more valuable **Roses**, and refer to our Descriptive Catalogue for prices.

Taking a valuable hint from nature, the expert landscape gardener throws finishing touches of

HARDY VINES

Into all choice bits of work. Among these can be found any sort of drapery most becoming to any particular porch, chimney, wall, fence, old stump, or dead tree trunk.

FOR COVERING WALLS closely there is nothing so fine as the **Ampelopsis**, celebrating with richest autumn colors its unaided victory over steep, smooth space.

FOR TRELLISES AND PORCHES, **Clematises** and **Honeysuckles** furnish many fine examples of shade-producing and vine decorative art. *C. VIRGINIANA* and *C. PANICULATA* are two especially fine white-flowered species of the former.

VINES THAT CLIMB HIGH AND TWINE TIGHTLY are the **Tecomas** and **Wistarias**, though both are beautiful when trained to a stake and made to assume the form of large shrubs. For training high into heavy wreaths over stone buildings, balconies, summer-houses, etc., they are superb materials.

The main outlines of a landscape sketch, having thus been drawn, there are borders and nooks to be filled in with

HARDY PERENNIAL PLANTS.

Good collections of these will make small gardens or large grounds a source of unflagging interest from the time when the first spring snowdrops thrust their white petals through the snow until only blue gentians and monkshoods bloom on the brim of winter. All good Perennials in fine assortments I can supply, and my collections of **Irises** and **Pæonias** are especially fine. In the latter race marvelous results have been obtained through hybridization, so that now there are

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varieties as delicate as roses, with petals most distinct in character and color. Some recent Iris importations from Japan show flowers marvelous in size and brilliancy.

The flakes of vivid, tropical color necessary to complete most foregrounds may be satisfactorily wrought with beds of **Cannas and Dahlias**, and similar plants of this class. My collection includes superbest new sorts at prices as low as good stock of such varieties can be sold.

The Orchard

And fruit garden by many are considered more important to the comfort of a home than its ornamentals.

MY FRUIT TREES AND VINES OF BEARING AGE will save much expense in buying market fruits and impatient waiting for the superior home product.

Small Fruits, etc., I can supply of good kinds in quantity.

Landscape Making

THE PRACTICAL FEATURES in Landscape Gardening usually prove pit-falls to the unpracticed. Travel and observation will do much to shape one's ideas, but the ability to well work out a landscape theme, requires practical experience, too.

I shall be pleased to furnish my customers **good material and good men for Landscape work** on reasonable terms. Visits for consultation will be made and complete plans, competent help and personal supervision furnished if desired. Write me of your needs.

Yours for success,

HIRAM T. JONES,
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY.

